

Application No. 10/614,437

REMARKS

The Examiner's Office Action has been studied carefully. Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claims 1-6 are cancelled. Claim 7-10 are added.

Argument

The present invention is based on a new understanding of the etiology of glaucoma. On the basis of this new understanding, an improved treatment is achieved with the aid of a surgical knife having a diamond blade. More specifically, this treatment remediates the pathogenesis of primary glaucoma by resection of the meridional fibers of the Brucke muscle at any attachment thereof. The treatment includes the steps of: resection by the surgical knife of meridional fibers of the ciliary muscle of ora serrata between places of attachment of rectus muscles; leaving intact areas of anterior ciliary arteries and long posterior ciliary arteries; assuring decreasing blood flow in the posterior choroid; assuring elimination of hemostasis of posterior ciliary arteries and its branches; ensuring improved blood supply of the optic nerve; and assuring improved blood supply of the ciliary body and iris.

The § 102(b) Rejection

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Siepser. More specifically, the Examiner has indicated that the device of Siepser can be used to perform the claimed method.

Siepser discloses a method of surgically accessing the interior of the eye in order to perform a procedure, in particular, replacement of a damaged lens. Siepser also discloses a surgical knife designed to facilitate the disclosed method.

The essence of the Examiner's rejection is that the intended use of a surgical knife is for resection, and, therefore, under *In re Casey*, there is no manipulative difference in the manner in which a surgical knife is used in accordance with the present invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

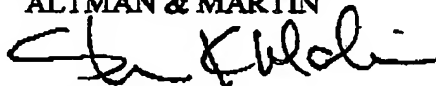
As specified in new Claims 7 and 9 in great detail, the treatment is a multi-step process that involves a surgical knife in a complex set of manipulations that involve the surgical knife in resection of meridional fibers of ciliary muscle of ora serrata between places of attachment of rectus muscles in such a way as: to leave intact areas of anterior ciliary arteries and long posterior ciliary arteries; to assure decreasing blood flow in the posterior choroid; to assure elimination of hemostasis of posterior ciliary arteries and its branches; to ensure improved blood supply of the optic nerve; and to assure improved blood supply of the ciliary body and iris. It is critical to understand that the novel steps of the present invention and their results are based on a new concept of the etiology of glaucoma.

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CONCLUSION

Since the novel steps of the present invention and their results are based on a new concept of the etiology of glaucoma, the use of the surgical knife, in a way that achieves unprecedented results, necessarily meets the requirements of a manipulative difference in *In re Casey*. The invention has been defined in great detail in Claims 7 and 9. A favorable action and passage to issuance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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